

As per available information, China is importing coir fibre from India for the manufacture of low cost coir mattresses, but so far China has not ventured into the production of coir floor covering like mats, matting, carpets, etc. which are traditionally made in India.

**Places where Mahatma Gandhi's ashes were immersed**

†3697. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of places in India where Gandhi Ji's ashes have been immersed;
- (b) the number of places out of these which located at the bank of a river, and
- (c) the number of places where 'Smadhis' have been built?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Production of hank yarn**

3698. SHRI AVINASH PANDE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has data regarding total production of hank yarn in the previous three financial years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) what is the current obligation on spinning mills to produce hank yarn;
- (d) whether Government plans to change these obligation norms in near future; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The production of cotton hank yarn during the last three years is as under:

Year	Quantity (Million Kg.)
2009-10	534.74
2010-11	559.85
2011-12 (April to December, 2011)	393.75

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The current Hank Yarn Packing Notification promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, prescribes that every producer of yarn who packs yarn for civil consumption, shall pack at least 40% of yarn packed for civil consumption in hank form, on a quarterly basis and not less than 80% of the hank yarn packed shall be of counts 80s and below.

(d) and (e) The Government has not taken any decision to change hank yarn obligation norms at present. The objective of Hank Yarn Packing Notification (HYPN) is to ensure adequate availability of hank yarn to the handloom weavers. The State Governments have demanded that in view of price volatility and erratic fluctuation in yarn prices the present level of hank yarn obligation should be maintained to ensure the availability of hank yarn to the handloom weavers.

#### **Shortage of drinking water during summer**

3699. SHRI N.K. SINGH :

SHRI ISHWAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that major cities face shortage of drinking water during summer every year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has assessed the likely shortage of drinking water in the urban cities in the coming summer season;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and
- (e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to supply adequate drinking water to these cities including the funds made available for the purpose by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY) : (a) to (d) Water, that is to say, water supplies is a State subject as per List-II (State List) in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. The function has been further devolved to Urban Local Bodies as per the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act. Hence it is the responsibility of the State Governments/ Urban Local Bodies to provide, monitor and maintain water supply.

During summer, some cities face shortage of drinking water due to inadequate rainfall in the previous monsoon; inadequate storages; losses due to evapo-transpiration and percolation; water demand from other competing sectors such as agriculture coupled with increased demand in hot weather due to metabolic functions; more frequent